

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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Australia

Post: Canberra

Additional Testing Required for Japanese Food Products

Report Categories:

Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

In response to the nuclear accident in Japan, Australia is requiring additional testing for radionuclides for certain foods sources from prefectures close to where the incident occurred since March 11, 2011.

In response to the nuclear accident in Japan, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has advised the Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service (AQIS) that testing for radionuclides is required for certain foods from prefectures in Japan close to where the incident occurred. Only the foods listed below from the affected prefectures and sourced since March 11, 2011 are required to be tested. All other food sourced from the listed prefectures and elsewhere in Japan will not be subjected to this testing.

- **Foods subject to testing:** seaweed; fresh & frozen seafood (excluding fish pastes & fish sauces); milk & milk products; and, fresh fruit & vegetables.
- **Affected prefectures:** Fukushima; Gunma; Ibaraki; Tochigi & Chiba.

Affected foods will be tested to determine combined levels of Caesium (Cs^{137}) and Caesium (Cs^{134}). Foods will also be tested for levels of Iodine (I^{131}). FSANZ have advised that acceptable levels consistent with Codex Alimentarius guidelines are:

- total Cs^{137} and Cs^{134} must not be more than 1000 Bq(becquerels)/kg
- I^{131} must not be more than 100 Bq/kg

Foods must pass both limits. Failing foods will not be permitted entry.

These additional requirements for the testing of foods from Japan were first announced in Australia on March 28, 2011. The list of prefectures was updated to include Chiba on April 4.

In order to identify these foods to AQIS, imported food brokers are required to answer a specific question regarding the source of Japanese products when lodging entries.

The most recent AQIS notice on the testing of Japanese foods for radionuclides is available at:

<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/food/notices/2009/2011/ifn-04-11>

Any future updates will be posted on the AQIS Imported Food Notices website at:

<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/food/notices>